

18th December 1922]

IV

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table the *return of officers in the non-gazetted service of the Government who held permanent appointments on Rs. 35 and upwards on 1st April 1922 (prescribed by G.O. No. 658, Public, dated 15th August 1922).

The SECRETARY laid on the table † proceedings of the twelfth meeting for 1922-23 of the Standing Finance Committee of the Madras Legislative Council held on the 18th November 1922.

The SECRETARY laid on the table the ‡ notification regarding the abolition of the Anantapur municipality under proviso (b) to section 5 (1) of the District Municipalities Act, 1920.

With reference to the answer given to question No. 94, asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th September 1922, the SECRETARY laid on the table a § statement showing the travelling allowances drawn by Superintending Engineers of circles during 1921-22.

V

THE MADRAS HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL, 1922.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill of 1922 be read in Council. The Bill, Sir, having been previously approved by the Governor-General in Council in its present form, was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English and in the chief vernaculars of the Presidency. The comments on the Bill as have so far appeared both in the press and in private communications have been encouraging. At present, Sir, the Madras religious institutions are served by the Acts XX of 1863 and XIV of 1920. Of these Acts, the former is altogether out of date and too defective to give adequate scope for the successful management of religious endowments, and the latter though quite modern is too limited in its scope to remedy the defects of the former.

"This question of amending the Religious Endowments Act has been for a long time agitating the minds of the people of this Presidency, at any rate of the thinking section of the disinterested people of this Presidency. As early as 1870, it was recognized that the Act of 1863 utterly failed to attain its object. Ever since, the people have been anxious to introduce amendments to the Bill. The first attempt at legislation to amend the Bill was made by the late hon. Mr. Rama Ayyangar. He drafted a Bill in 1870 and the Bill was referred to the then Advocate-General, who, on examining the Bill, thought that the Bill was incomplete and did not remedy all the defects though it would improve the existing law. Thereupon, the Advocate-General was asked to prepare the outline of a fresh Bill and a committee was appointed with Sir William Robinson as President. The committee investigated the matter and drafted a Bill which was submitted in due course to this Government. This Government referred the Bill with the report and the connected papers to the Government of India who thought

* Vide Appendix C on page 950 infra.

† Vide Appendix E on page 957 infra.

‡ Vide Appendix D on page 955 infra.

§ Vide Appendix F on page 957 infra.